

ENGLAND et al.
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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following in lieu of the originally filed PCT abstract:

- - **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of determining differing characteristics of magnetic dipole elements such as orientation, coercivity, bias and response amplitude and a tag reader for reading magnetic tags containing such elements. The elements are scanned by a rotating magnetic field and two sets of transition data are determined. The transition data sets are associated with respective elements and analyzed to determine mean field values resolved along the element vectors. These field values are used to determine properties of the elements, such as coercivity. - -